

Cadet Command selects NCO of the Year



Representing the Command ...

Sergeant 1st Class Erick Macher (right) is applauded at Western Region Headquarters April 6 as Command Sgt. Major Washington announces Macher's selection as Cadet Command's NCO of the Year. Macher and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lilly (pictured next to Macher) competed in the two-day event.

By Jeremy O'Bryan
Western Region Public Affairs

FORT LEWIS, Wash. – The two best noncommissioned officers in Cadet Command competed here in the organization's NCO of the Year Competition, which concluded April 6 with a ceremony announcing the top selectee.

Sgt. 1st Class Erick Macher, a military science instructor from the 14th Brigade assigned to the University of California-Davis, will represent Cadet Command as the NCO of the Year for 2006. The 31 year-old Soldier has been in the Army 13 years.

The No. 2 selected NCO, or runner up, is Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lilly, a 42 year-old military science

instructor from the 4th Brigade assigned to Virginia State University. Lilly has served 15 years in the Army.

The Soldiers endured many hours of skill evaluation and testing – including competitions within their own regions – to reveal the best of the best from among the hundreds of Warriors in the command.

“These guys are both great NCOs,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Major Washington, Cadet Command's Command Sergeant Major. “It takes a lot to make it this far in a NCO of the Year competition.”

The board members included Command Sgt. Maj. Washington; Command Sgt. Major Victor Mercado, Western Region; Command Sgt. Major Michael Peters, Eastern Region; and the Cadet Command

G-3 Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Randal Meyer.

The competition consisted of a weigh-in, Army physical fitness test, weapons qualification, day and night land navigation, a written essay, a written exam and appearance in front of a board of senior NCOs who assessed the contestants' leadership knowledge. In the mix of the trials, event organizers placed two “mystery tasks.”

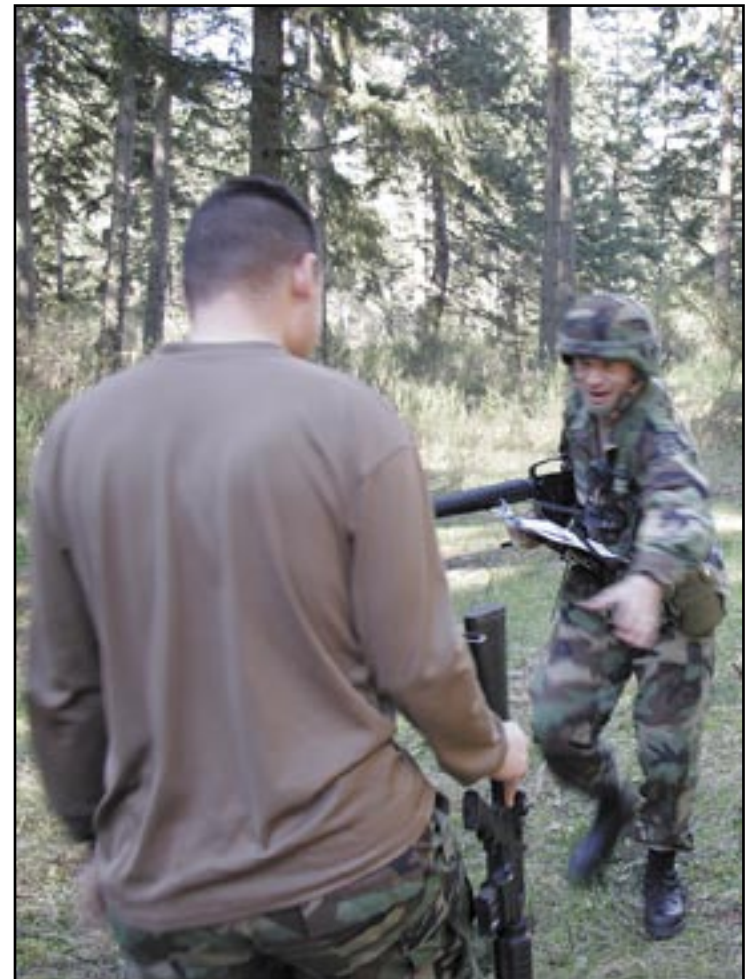
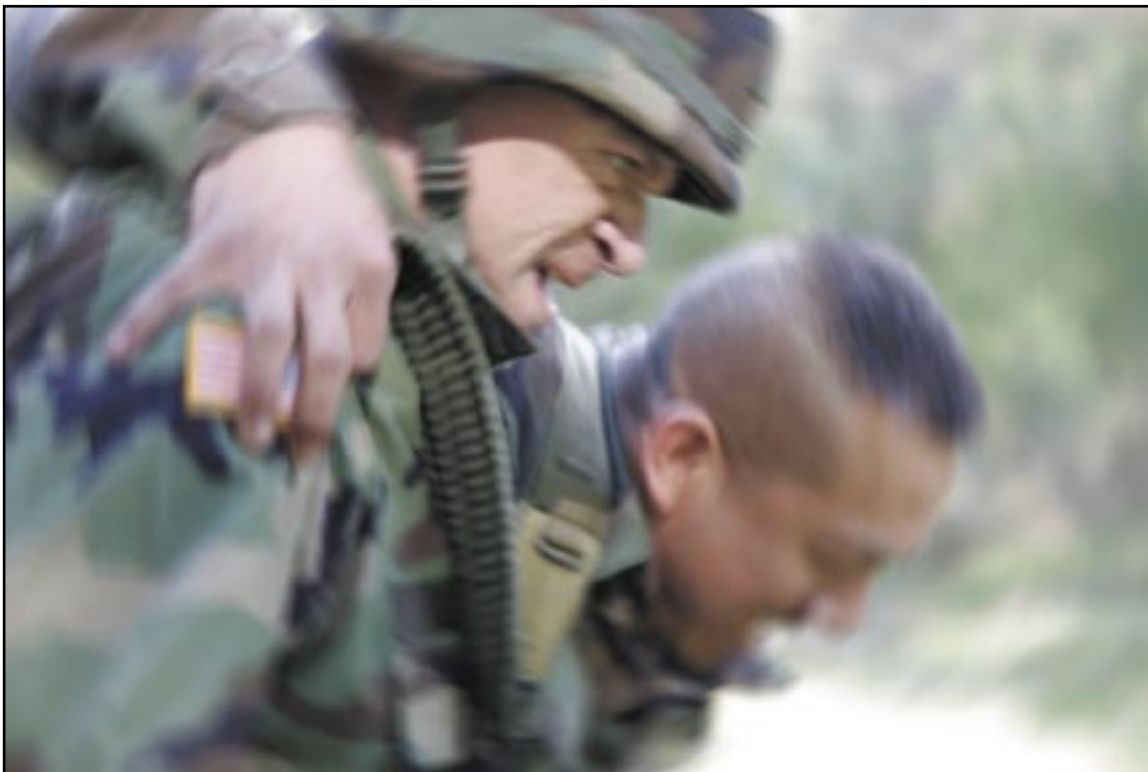
Washington thanked Master Sgt. Thomas Henderson, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Bechtold, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Koder, Sgt. 1st Class Porfirio Prieto, Marlin Gutierrez and Douglas Phillips, all from Western Region, who supported and helped plan the competition.

See Page 2 for more ...



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lilly, runner-up in the Cadet Command NCO of the Year competition, responds to tasks presented to him by those evaluating the candidates.

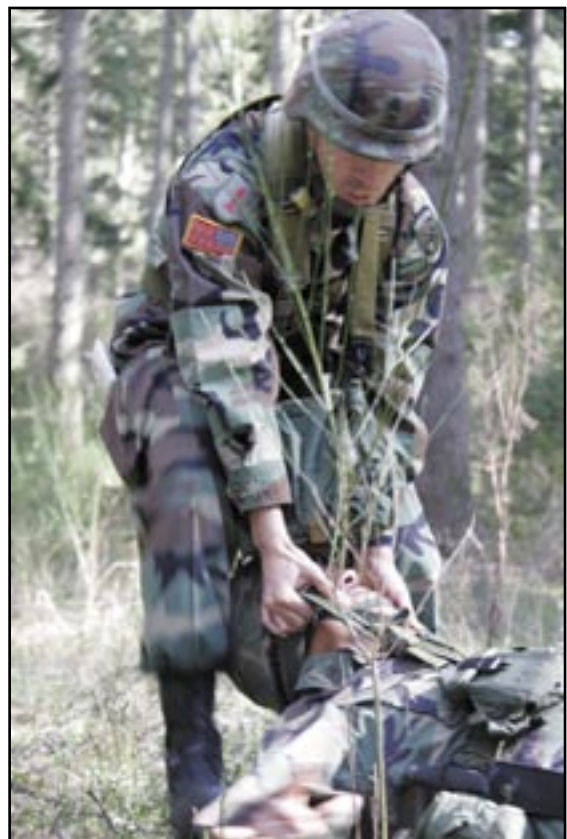
From Top Left, Clockwise: Lilly administers first aid to a simulated fallen platoon member, played by Sgt. 1st Class Porfirio Prieto, Western Region training division. Lilly takes cover, protects his fellow Soldier, and returns fire. Lilly takes the weapon of a simulated surrendering enemy combatant, played by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Koder, Western Region training division. Lilly carries the "wounded" Prieto to an evacuation point.





Sgt. 1st Class Erick Macher, Cadet Command’s NCO of the Year, responds to tasks presented to him by those evaluating the competition candidates. Above, Macher rushes to the aid of a fellow Soldier who pretends to be shot while on patrol in a combat zone, while Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Bechtold looks on.

Below, Clockwise: Macher meets the board of senior NCOs evaluating the candidates. Macher pats down a simulated enemy combatant who has surrendered, after (next photo) telling him to drop his weapon and kneel on the ground. Macher drags a fallen Soldier to safety under enemy fire.





Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lilly
Trojan Warrior Battalion

Current Duty: Military science instructor,
4th Brigade, Virginia State University

MOS: 11B, infantry

Time in Service: 15 years

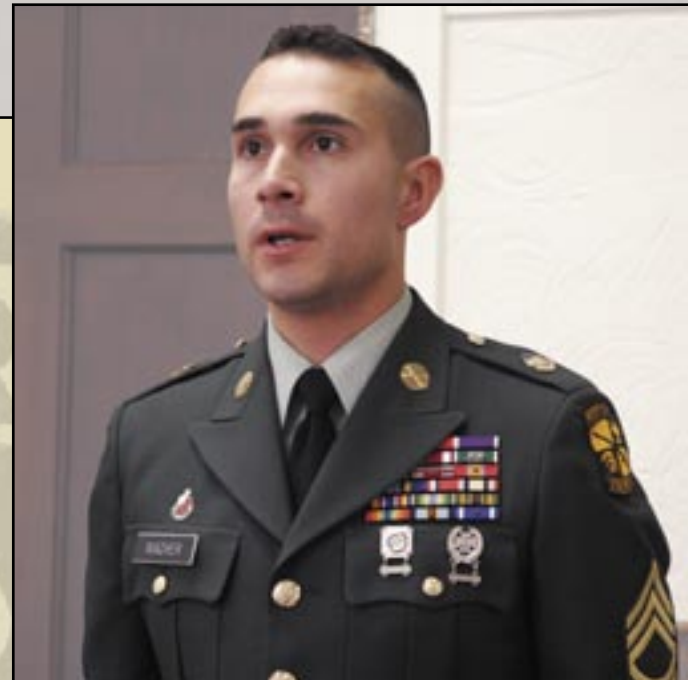
Military Education: ANCOC, BNCOC, PLDC,
Airborne, Air Assault, Jumpmaster, Pathfinder

Previous Assignments/Duties: Fort Campbell;
Fort Bragg; Camp Jackson, Korea; Fort Leonard
Wood – as squad leader, anti-armor section chief,
PLDC instructor, drill sergeant, platoon sergeant,
jumpmaster instructor, tower committee chief

Awards/Decs include: Meritorious Service
Medal ...

Hometown:
Honolulu, Hawaii

Family:
Wife, Roxana; son, Abraham



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Macher
Forged Gold Battalion

Current Duty: Military science instructor,
14th Brigade, University of California-Davis,
Sacramento State University

MOS: 13B, field artillery

Time in Service: 13 years

Military Education: ANCOC, BNCOC, PLDC, EO
Course, Armor School

Previous Assignments/Duties: Fort Sill; Fort
Bragg; Schweinfurt, Germany; Kosovo; Iraq – as
cannon crewmember, ammunition sergeant,
gunner, howitzer section chief, gunnery
sergeant, platoon sergeant

Awards/Decs include: Bronze Star, Purple
Heart, Meritorious Service Medal ...

Hometown:
Fairfield, California

Family:
Wife, Melitta; son, Gabriel; daughter, Isabel



Col. Steven R. Corbett

Commander

Western Region, U.S Army Cadet Command

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